

REMARKS

The Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the comments set forth in the Office Action mailed March 19, 2004. The recognition of allowable subject matter in **claims 7, 8, 17, 18, 27 and 28** is noted with appreciation. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, in light of the amendments and remarks submitted herewith, are respectfully requested.

The Office Action

In the Office Action mailed March 19, 2004:

claims 7, 8, 17, 18, 27 and 28 were found to include allowable subject matter;

claims 1, 3-6, 9-11, 13-16, 19-21, 23-26, 29, 30 and 30-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,408,028 to Depaola ("Depaola") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,940,491 to Anderson et al. ("Anderson");

claims 31 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Depaola in view of Anderson in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,579,379 to D'Amico et al. ("D'Amico"); and

claims 2, 12 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Depaola in view of Anderson and further in view of what the Office Action characterizes as the Applicants admitted prior art.

The Claims Are Not Obvious

Claims 1, 3-6, 9-11, 13-16, 19-21, 23-26, 29, 30 and 33-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Depaola in view of Anderson. **Claims 31 and 32** were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Depaola in view of Anderson in further view of D'Amico. **Claims 2, 12 and 22** were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Depaola in view of Anderson and further in view of what the Office Action characterizes as the Applicant's admitted prior art.

However, the Examiner found allowable subject matter in **claims 7, 8, 17, 18, 27 and 28**. Independent **claim 1** has been amended to include the subject matter of **claim 8**. Independent **claim 11** has been amended to include the subject matter of **claim 18**. Independent **claim 21** has been amended to include the subject matter of **claim 28**.

For at least the foregoing reasons, **claims 1, 11 and 21**, as well as **claims 2-10, 12-20 and claims 22-37**, which depend respectively therefrom, are unanticipated and are not obvious in view of Depaola, Anderson, D'Amico and any subject presented in

the present application, taken alone or in any combination.

New **claim 38** includes the combined subject matter of original **claims 1 and 7**. New **claim 39** includes the subject matter of original **claims 11 and 17**. New **claim 40** includes the subject matter of original **claims 21 and 27**. The Office Action indicates that such claims would be allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, new **claims 38-40** are not anticipated and are not obvious in view of Depaola, Anderson, D'Amico and any subject matter presented in the present application, taken alone or in any combination.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-6, 9-16, 19-26 and 29-37 remain in the application. **Claims 38-40** have been added. **Claims 7, 8, 17, 18, 27 and 28** have been canceled. For at least the foregoing reasons, the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early indication thereof is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sept 16, 2004
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